

April 2, 1975

I plan to. For the purpose of the record, Senator Koch, I will be here. I will have red lights at times also. I ask you to support this and move it on so those people in state government will know what they're going to have, and push it on. I ask that we move it on to E & R engrossing.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk would you read the motion please.

CLERK: The amendment, Mr. President, is simply to strike section 4.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the bill be returned to Select File for the specific amendment of striking section 4. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record Mr. Clerk. Senator Mills.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, how many do you have absent, may I find out?

CLERK: Two. 21 ayes, 24 nays, 4 not voting.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails.

CLERK: Motion on the desk.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to return 588 to Select File for specific amendment. Signed, Senator Fowler. The specific amendment is as follows: on page 2, line 11 strike "4" and insert "5", strike "68" and insert "52". On page 3, line 7 and 16 strike "4" and insert "5", strike "68" and insert "52", strike lines 19 to 27. On page 4, strike lines 1 to 27. On page 5, strike line 1. Renumber original sections 5 to 9 as 4 to 8. Signed, Senator Fowler.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, what this does is eliminate the merit increase. It takes that one percent and it spreads it evenly across all state employees, making an increase in annual salary of \$84 per employee. It raises that \$468 to \$552. Now what this does is eliminate the problems that have been raised about trying to create a merit system in three months. It also provides a salary increase, a greater salary increase, for the employees on the lower end of the salary. Now when I came into this Legislature we had just recently adopted a state pay plan. It had taken some two years to develop that plan. The merit proposal would eliminate that plan and require, in three months, the creation of a totally new system to try and meet the needs of state employees. It's simply not possible to come up with an equitable merit system in three months. I would be willing to support an effort over the next year to try and develop such a system that would meet the needs of employees. It would create reasonable standards for merit increases, and would replace the sorts of forms that Senator Lewis has talked about. I would move for adoption of this amendment.